

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 06348 261131Z
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SUBJ: POLAND'S 1978 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS: A HEAVY SOVIET
OVERLAY CONTRIBUTE TO POPULAR APATHY

1. POLAND'S OFFICIAL NATIONAL DAY IS CELEBRATED ON JULY 22, THE DATE OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE "JULY MANIFESTO" OF 1944 WHICH BROUGHT INTO BEING THANSOViet-CONTROLLED LUBLIN GOVERNMENT. THE HOLIDAY HAS NEVER BEEN POPULAR; THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION EVEN THOUGH THE GOP SPICED UP THE OCCASION WITH THE CEREMONIAL RETURN OF POLAND'S FIRST COSMONAUT, MIRESLAW HERMASZEWSKI TO HIS HOMELAND.

2. ALTHOUGH SOME WARSAW NEIGHBORHOODS, AT LEAST, WERE SURPRISINGLY BARE OF DECORATION, OFFICIAL BUILDINGS

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 06348 261131Z

AND MANY HOUSES AROUND POLAND WERE FESTOONED WITH THE FLAGS AND SLOGANS CUSTOMARY ON HOLIDAYS IN THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (PRL). (RUMORE HAS IT THAT THE PARTY FAITHFUL PEDDLED FALGS DOOR-TO-DOOR AT 65 ZLOTYS APIECE). THE MEDIA WHIPPED UP THE PRE-DICTABLE CONCOCTION OF SMILING CHILDREN AND INDUSTRIOS WORKERS TO DEMONSTRATE THE JUBILIATION WITH

WHICH THE POPULACE SUPPOSEDLY MARKED THE 34TH YEAR OF THE PRL. IN FACT, MOST OF THE HOOPLA PLAYED TO EMPTY SEATS: THE VACATION SEASON HAS STRUCK WARSAW EARLY AND THE GOP MOUNTED ONLY MODEST PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. THE MILITARY CEREMONY IN FRONT OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JULY 22 DIFFERED LITTLE FROM THE ROUTINE SUNDAY CHANGING-OF-THE-GUARD. THE BIGGEST NAME IN ATTENDANCE AT THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY WAS PZPR SECRETARY ANDRZEJ WERBLAN. RYSZARD FRELEK LED ANOTHER DELEGATION WHICH PAID ITS RESPECTS AT THE MAUSOLEUM OF THE SOVIET "LIBERATORS" ON THE EDGE OF WARSAW.

3. MOST OF THE BIG GUNS OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENT CELEBRATED JULY 22 ON JULY 21, APPEARING AT A CEREMONIAL SESSION OF THE SEJM, THE POLISH PARLIAMENT, IN HONOR HERMASZEWSKI AND HIS SOVIET MENTOR, COSMONAUT PIOTR KLIMUK, AND AT AN EVENING RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN THE PALACE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

4. THE RETURN OF COSMONAUT HERMASZEWSKI TO POLAND DID NOT SPARK GENERAL JUBILATION, ALTHOUGH A REASONABLY LARGDWOCROWD LINED THE ROUTE FROM THE WARSAW AIRPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING TO SEE THE MOTORCADE BRINGING HERMASZEWSKI AND KLIMAK TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 06348 261131Z

SEJM. THE FACT THAT HERMASZEWSKI WAS PUT ON DISPLAY IN TANDEM WITH KLIMUK PROBABLY DAMPENED THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE AVERAGE WARSOVIAN FOR THE FIRST POLE IN OUTER SPACE (SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE POLES HAVE GRUMBLED AT THE PRICE THEY ASSUME POLAND PAID TO HAVE ONE OF ITS CITIZENS HOISTED INTO THE COSMOS; MOREOVER, THE EDGE OF THIS POLISH "FIRST" WAS ALREADY SOMEWHAT TAKEN OFF FOR MANY POLES BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL FRATERNAL COUNTRY COSMONAUT WAS A CZECH). DURING THE MINUTE-BY-MINUTE COVERAGE OF THE FLIGHT, THE MEDIA HAD RARELY FAILED TO INCLUDE IN THE SAME BREATH WORDS OF GRATITUDE TO THE USSR FOR MAKING THE EVENT POSSIBLE.

5. THE CEREMONIAL SEJM SESSION, BILLED IN ADVANCE ONLY TENUOUSLY AS AN ELEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS, LIKEWISE DWELT OBSESSIVELY ON THE SOVIET CONNECTION. ITS SOLE THEMES, IN FACT, WAS A PAEAN TO THE BLESSINGS CONFERRED UPON POLAND BY ITS ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HERMASZEWSKI, KLIMUK IN UNTRANSLATED RUSSIAN, AND GIEREK ALL

STRESSED IN THEIR SPEECHES THE INEXHAUSTIBLE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM POLAND'S SOVIET CONNECTION. SOVIET AMBASADOR BORIS ARISTOV, DECKED OUT IN HIS AMBASSADORIAL UNIFORM, MADE AN OSTENTATIOUS ENTRY WITH A STAFF OF TEN AFTER ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAD BEEN SEATED. ARISTOV AND COMPANY PASSED THROUGH THE DIPLOMATIC LOGE AND TOOK PROMINENT SEATS NORMALLY RESERVED FOR POLISH YOUTH GROUPS BROUGHT IN FOR SEJM SESSION.

6. THE SAME THEMES AND ATMOSPHERES DOMINATED THE RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOAMTIC CORPS, ONCE MORE, ARISTOV WAS SEPARATED FROM THE CORPS, STANDING WITH A LARGE SOVIET DELEGATION NEAR THE COSMONAUTS, WHO AGAIN WERE SPOTLIGHTED
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PAGE 04 WARSAW 06348 261131Z

GUESTS, PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWCZ, THE HOST OF THE RECEPTION, LARDED HIS SPEECH, NOMINALLY GIVEN IN RESPONSE TO A CONGRATULATORY STATEMENT BY THE DEAN OF THE CORPS, WITH REFERENCES TO POLISH SOLIBERTY WITH THE USSR AND THE BENEFITS TO POLAND FROM THE SOVIET CONNECTION. THE SOVIET DELEGATION INCLUDED SEVERAL GENERALS NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN AT POLISH CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS.

7. COMMENT: THE NET EFFECT OF THIS HEAVY OVERLAY OF STRESS ON "ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP, BROTHERHOOD AND COOPERATION WITH THE USSR," AS SEVERAL WARSAW STREET BANNERS PUT IT, VERY PROBABLY WAS TO TURN THE AVERAGE POLES EVEN FURTHER OF IN HIS REACTION TO THE JULY 22 OBSERVANCE. THE CAMPAIGN, CARRIED ON BY RADIO AND TELEVISION AS WELL, WAS INDEED A TYPICALLY SHRILL FOR POLAND. SINCE THE PERVERSIVE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIETS IS ALL TOO WELL KNOWN TO THE REGIME, WE CAN ONLY SURMISE IT FELT A STRONG NEED TO MASSAGE MOSCOW'S EGO EVENT AT SOME FURTHER COST TO ITS STANDING WITH ITS OZQ "CONSTITUENTS."
END COMMENT.
SCHAUFEL

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